

## AMENDMENTS

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JUN 23 2003

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Claims 1-7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (previously amended): A method of decreasing the incidence of insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus in at-risk populations, comprising the step of orally administering IFN- $\alpha$  to individuals of said at-risk population.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 8, wherein said interferon is selected from the group consisting of human recombinant interferon, rat interferon and murine interferon.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of claim 8, wherein said interferon is administered in a dosage of ~~from~~ about 5 I.U./kg to about 50,000 I.U./kg.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 8, wherein said interferon is administered every other day.

Claims 12-15 (canceled).

Claim 16 (previously amended): A method of decreasing the onset of insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus in at-risk populations, comprising the step of orally administering IFN- $\alpha$  to individuals of said at-risk population.

Claim 17 (previously amended): The method of claim 16, wherein said IFN- $\alpha$  is selected from the group consisting of human recombinant interferon, rat interferon and murine interferon.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The method of claim 16, wherein said interferon is administered in a dosage of ~~from~~ about 50 I.U./kg to about 25,000 I.U./kg.

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